The Crusader
Volume 3, Issue 2, April 2000
https://www.foreverknight.ca/KtK/KtK2002/crusader.html
Text Only Part 1 Text Only Part 2

RENEWING OUR EFFORTS FOR SPRING

Greetings! We are proud to present our Spring issue of "The Crusader". As always we would like to thank all our loyal subscribers online and off, and and welcome all new readers.

I would at this time like to take a moment to update you on our policy. We accept any submissions, FK related of course. For the most part we try not to edit anyone's work unless it contains any objectionable material, such as profanity. This can be poetry, short stories, puzzles...in other words, whatever you like!

I would also like to update you on some very special projects we have had. On behalf of the fans, an Easter basket was sent to Bonnie Hammer at Sci Fi Channel containing hundreds of e-mails from the fans asking for Forever Knight's return to the Sci Fi Channel's schedule. We have also had our very first feedback blitz. This was where we asked as many online fans to e-mail the Sci Fi Channel asking for FK's return. The response was so good that we decided to do it again, only this time with a triple blitz covering USA Networks, Sci Fi Channel and Columbia Tristar! At the moment, during the blitz, we are collecting names to place on a petition that will be sent to "The Powers That Be". That too is going well, as we are close to 900 signatures! And are we stopping with that? No way! KtK has many, many projects planned. We are far from stopping!

We are planning on having another auction as soon as enough items are collected. These auctions as you know provide us with the funds needed to place ads in the entertainment trade papers. So please if you have any FK items you wish to donate for the cause, contact: SField8067@aol.com or offline fans write to KtK, P.O. Box 1914, Racine, WI 53401-1914.

I would like to say a special thank you to all the Sentinel fans who have continued to show support for our cause. We hope you will show them support in their cause as well.

In closing, I would again like to thank all of you all for everything you do to try to bring back the Knight. Remember, keep e-mailing, keep writing, phone if you can! Make sure TPTB know that we are growing in number every day and will not stop until we have Forever Knight back and even then we will continue! All info you need is available in this newsletter and can also be found on the official KtK website:

http://www.ktk.op.nu (alternate URL http://members.aol.com/ktkpage). We try to update it as often as possible, and will be again in a couple of weeks....

Happy Spring everyone!!!
Susan Ellen Field

FANS OF FOREVER KNIGHT FUND ANOTHER AD!
http://members.aol.com/ktkpage/ad.htm
The ad you see here was the latest ad placed by Kickstart the Knight on behalf of the fans of Forever Knight, and we think most of you will agree that it is our most beautiful ad yet! This ad was made possible by fans who bid in KtK's recent online auction. It ran in the March 21, 2000 issue of "The Hollywood Reporter" and was again a half page (8½" x 5½"). We would like to thank everyone who bid in the auction, and everyone who donated the terrific items that were up for bid, as well as our official KtK artist who created the art in the ad. If you'd like to order a copy of the "Hollywood Reporter" issue containing the ad, call them at (323)525-2087. The cost is $5.50, which includes shipping and handling.

COLUMBIA TRISTAR TELEVISION NAMES NEW PRESIDENT
Mel Harris, Co-President and Chief Operating OfFicer of Sony Pictures Entertainment's television division, recently announced the appointment of Len Grossi as President of Columbia TriStar Television. As President of CTT, Grossi will report to Harris. Grossi will be overseeing all aspects of the television division, including their network production and distribution deals. Grossi was previously Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at UPN, Executive Vice President at Twentieth Television (Fox), and Vice President of Finance and Administration for Paramount Pictures' television and video distribution division, among other positions. Needless to say, KtK isn't going to ignore such an important person! We are working on an address for him and we will be including him in a letter writing campaign soon.

WRITE FOR THE KNIGHT!
Let's redouble our efforts and really let "the powers that be" know that we want more Forever Knight! The main idea is to be honest. Tell them your age, where you live, how long you've been watching Forever Knight and how much you'd like to see it back on TV. Do not, however, put anything on the envelope that might indicate you are a FK fan or are writing about the show. These letters are often considered "fannish" and you run the risk of being ignored.
Be business-like...explain why you're writing and why you think it will be profitable to have the show back in production. Tell them what kind of Forever Knight merchandise you have bought, and what you would like to buy. BUT TELL THEM YOU WANT MORE FOREVER KNIGHT! And don't forget to let Rae know how many letters you've written to each address, and which (if any) faction you would like to

credit your letters to - let's see which affiliation is the most dedicated!!!! E-mail Rae at Javiette@aol.com. Here is the complete list of addresses:

FOR FK ON SCI FI:
Edgar Bronfman Jr.
CEO & President
The Seagram Co. Ltd.
375 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10152-0192

Stephen Chao
USA Networks
2049 Century Park E., Ste. 2550
Los Angeles, CA 90067

Bonnie Hammer
Sci Fi Channel
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

FOR MORE FK, FK MOVIES:
Mel Harris
Chief Operating Officer - Television
Sony Pictures Entertainment
10202 W. Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232

FOR FK MOVIES ON SCI FI:
Adam Shapiro
Corporate Communications 8th Fl.
USA Networks
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020-1513

FOR FK MERCHANDISE:
Marci Gordon
Sony Product Development
TriStar Building, 3rd Fl.
10102 W. Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232

800-Trekker
P.O. Box 13131
Reading, PA 19612-3131

FOR MORE FK BOOKS:
Grace Ressler
Publishing Manager
Sony Signatures
TriStar Building, 3rd Fl.
10202 W. Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232

Boulevard Books
The Berkley Publishing Group
200 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10016

FOR THE FK COMPANION BOOK:
Brenda Scott Royce
Renaissance Media Inc.
5858 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 200
Los Angeles, CA 90036

FOR FK ON HOME VIDEO:
Columbia House Video Library
1400 Fruitridge Avenue
Terre Haute, IN 47811

FOR THE FOLKS IN THE UK:
Customer Relations Department
British Sky Broadcasting PLC
Subscriber Management Centre
P.O. Box 43
Livingston
West Lothion
EH54 7DD
SCOTLAND

The Sci Fi Channel
77 Charlotte Street
London
W1P 2DD
ENGLAND

NEWS

There is an interview with Nigel Bennett in the March issue of Cult Times magazine, which went on sale on February 24, 2000. For information on how to get a copy, order Cult Times' back issues at http://www.visimag.com/acatalog/VI_DIRECT_Catalog_Cult_Times_2000_113.html or write for information to: Visual Imagination, PMB# 469, P.O. Box 6061, Sherman Oaks, California 91413 or send them a FAX at (818)980-6061. Cost for the issue is $4.99 plus $2.00 shipping (U.S.).

Lisa Ryder (Tracy Vetter) will star in a new syndicated series coming this fall called "Gene Roddenberry's Andromeda". The series also stars Kevin Sorbo of "Hercules: The Legendary Journeys" and began filming on May 8, 2000. For more information, visit the official website for the series at http://www.andromedatv.com.

Catherine Disher (Natalie Lambert) is featured in the CBC radio drama "National Affairs" which has recently returned to the airwaves. Catherine plays Beth Tinsdale in the series which is broadcast live every Friday morning from 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. Pacific (12:30 to 12:45 p.m. Eastern) on CBC Radio One. You can also listen to it using Real Audio by clicking on one of the stations at http://cbc.ca/audio.html.

Geraint Wyn Davies will be appearing on the big screen in the near future. He recently returned from shooting "One of the Hollywood Ten" in Spain. The film, which stars Jeff Goldblum as Herb Biberman, will be hitting theatres when it is complete. Ger plays film writer Michael Wilson. We will keep you posted as soon as we know more about release dates etc.!

The Canadian quarterly sci fi magazine Parsec will feature an interview with Nigel Bennett in its summer issue which will be out in July. For more information, visit Parsec's website at http://www.parsec.on.ca or write to them at Parsec; c/o Plaza 69 Post Office; 1935 Paris Street; Box 21019; Sudbury, Ontario P3E 6G6; Canada.

Lisa Ryder will star in Friday the 13th Part 10, which is in post-production and due out later this year. According to the Internet Movie Database, the movie is set on a space station 500 years in the future, where Jason will kill again.

Geraint Wyn Davies' production company, Round Table Films, has been keeping busy. They are working on two pilots for Canadian television ("The Elevator" and "The Counselors"), a film called "Into Milkwood", and a musical film.

KICKSTART THE KNIGHT TEAR-OFF LETTER TO SONY
Below is a quick and simple way for everyone to help "Kickstart the Knight"--a form letter for each of us to send to Sony (who we are targeting again as part of our latest campaign)! This is not meant to replace the personal letters which all of us need to keep writing, but is a way for us to do something even if we are too busy to write our own letters. So please, each and every one of you, fill in your name and

address on the form below (this is important--they have to know we are real people), cut it off of this page, and mail the form in an envelope addressed to: Mr. Mel Harris, Chief Operating Officer - Television, Sony Pictures Entertainment, 10202 W. Washington Blvd., Culver City. CA 90232. There are also a few lines for optional additional comments, and lines for optional personal information. Next issue we will include another tear-off letter to another member of "the powers that be".

Dear Mr. Harris:
I am a fan of the series "Forever Knight" and I am writing to ask that you bring "Forever Knight" back with the original cast, either as one or more made-for-television movies or as a regular series. I am a consumer with disposable cash and I would like to spend it to support the advertisers who would purchase commercial time during "Forever Knight" movies or new episodes.

Name:
Address:
City:
State/Province:
Zip/Postal Code:
Sex: Date of Birth:
Occupation:
I have been watching Forever Knight since:

UPCOMING SCI FI/FANTASY/HORROR CONS
Cons are our biggest opportunity to spread the word about "Forever Knight". If you see a con in your area, please drop off some Kickstart the Knight flyers on a free literature table at the con or on a FK fan merchant's table. The current flyer can be obtained by writing to Becky at: KtK, P.O. Box 1914, Racine, WI 53401-1914; or by sending e-mail to BJDFKFan@aol.com. Be sure to include how many copies of the flyer you would like, as well as your street address to send them to. The flyer can also be downloaded by following the "Kickstart the Knight Flyer" link at http://www.ktk.op.nu.

Date Name of Con Location Contact for Info
May 19-21, 2000 LepreCon Phoenix, AZ (480) 945-6890, lep26@leprecon.org
May 19-21, 2000 CONDuit Salt Lake City, UT http://conduit.sfcon.org/CONduit/
May 26-28, 2000 MarCon Columbus, OH (614)470-5448, http://www.marcon.org
May 26-28, 2000 Oasis 13 Orlando, FL (407)263-5822, webmaster@oasfis.org
May 26-28, 2000 Liberty Con 14 Chattanooga, TN tbolgeo@cdc.net, http://www.cdc.net/~libcon

May 26-28, 2000 ConQuesT 31 Kansas City, MO (913)768-0779, Sfreader@unicom.net
May 26-29, 2000 TachyCon Orlando, FL (407) 678-7652 or (407) 678-7778, info@tachycon.com
May 26-29, 2000 Costume Con Hartford, CT 11 Winter St., Amesbury, MA 01913; info@cc2000.org
May 26-29, 2000 BayCon San Jose, CA (408)450-1788, reg@baycon.org
June 9-11, 2000 *Foolscap II Tukwila, WA POB 2461, Seattle, WA 98111; morgan@ricochet.net
June 16-18, 2000 Duckon Chicago, IL POB 4843, Wheaton, IL 60189; info@duckon.org
June 16-18, 2000 Conjuration Columbia, MO POB 874, Columbia, MO 65205; conjure@gte.net
June 23-25, 2000 Michicon 2000 Warren, MI (734)953-2125, Dolphin2@oeonline.com
June 23-25, 2000 Agamemcon Burbank, CA (949)643-8352, orrock@ix.netcom.com
June 29-July 2 Dragon Con 2000 Atlanta, GA (770)909-0115, http://www.dragoncon.org
June 30-July 2 Aliens Stole My Handbag Surrey, England http://www.lostcarpark.com/aliensstolemyhandbag/
June 30-July 2 InConJunction Indianapolis, IN http://www.inconjunction.org/
June 30-July 4 Costume College 2000 Van Nuys, CA (310) 305-7885; http://www.costumecollege.org
July 1-4, 2000 Westercon Honolulu, Oahu, HI http://www.maui.net/~tropo/
July 7-9, 2000 Shore Leave 22 Baltimore, MD http://www.shore-leave.com
July 7-9, 2000 Nexus 2000 Bristol, England http://www.cosham.demon.co.uk/
July 7-9, 2000 ConVergence 2000 St. Paul, MN (612)996-9224, http://www.convergence-con.org/
July 13-16, 2000 Origins Columbus, OH (425)204-2677, evtcustserv@wizards.com
July 14-16, 2000 Toronto Trek Toronto, ON, Canada (416) 410-TCON, http://tcon.icomm.ca
July 14-16, 2000 **Concussion Omaha, NE http://straylight.unl.edu/conc/
July 14-16, 2000 Gateway St. Louis, MO (314)524-3014, http://www.stlf.org/gateway/
July 28-30, 2000 Rivercon Louisville, KY http://members.aol.com/raroehm/rivercon.html
July 28-30, 2000 Crescent City Con New Orleans, LA (504)488-0489, http://www.fatsnake.com/ccc/

* Scheduled to appear at this con is Ginjer Buchanan of Berkley Publishing, publisher of the Forever Knight novels!
** Scheduled to appear at this con is vampire author P.N. Elrod, Nigel Bennett's co-author for the "Keeper of the King" novels!

THE CRUSADER PROFILES FANFIC AUTHOR LORELEI SIEJA
"Forever Write"
by Lorelei Seija

It was a hot, muggy day in August 1998. I hesitated to turn on the air conditioning as we were trying to cut costs, but it was the kind of day when it's too much work just to think. So, I turned on all the fans and plopped in front of the television, flipping through channels.

There was a really cute cop on Sci Fi... I sort of like crime dramas, although I don't watch them often. I saw a car slam into him, throwing him across a cement parking garage, yet he just got up and kept on running. I was thinking, "oh yeah, get real!" And I turned the channel.

Not finding anything else, I flipped back thinking the show would be good for laughs. I had missed the opening credits by then. I don't know how long it took me to figure out that the cute one was a vampire, and therefore it was perfectly logical for him to be uninjured from a car crash. I loved the flashback scenes, with poor injured Nick accepting the hospitality of the sweet little nun. I loved his struggle to conquer his demons and find redemption. I found Forever Knight to be the most moral show on television. I was hooked.

The rest of the summer changed. Two of my four children joined me in fandom. I had to tape it, because it came on at 1 PM and vampire shows should be watched in the dark. Then at nights, when the temperature had dropped to human comfort levels, I would pour out the red wine and my teens and I would venture into the basement to feed our new Nick addiction. Those were the days...!

In mid-September my husband took a job in Wisconsin. While I was thrilled that our gypsy days were over and we could return to the state of our youth, I was also devastated as I tried to survive without him. The days were easy. I home-schooled our kids, drove them to soccer games, practices, boy scouts, church, and what ever, but the nights were pure hell. I had grown so accustomed to sleeping on his shoulder, to hearing his heart beat through my hair, to feeling his strong arms around me, that I basically did not sleep for the next three months.

My son bought a computer then, and we got Internet access. If I'd have had the Internet the three years we'd lived in North Carolina, I'm not sure we would have ever moved. Suddenly, we were no longer isolated! Oh, Hayesville was still two hours from everywhere: two hours from Atlanta, Chattanooga, and Asheville, but now I didn't need to go there! I had a library and a shopping mall in my den. And

late at night, I discovered the Forever Knight chat rooms, Forever Knight bulletin boards, and most importantly, the Forever Knight fiction lists!

I read about the "End of the Knight" story challenge. I had an idea and typed it out. It was a short thing, not even a story, but more of a memoir. I don't think I even spell-checked it, but just posted it to the list.

The next day my hotmail was flooded with kind words and praise! I think that short piece generated over fifty responses, and I was hooked. I had already written three full-length Star Trek novels, which I am still trying to get published, but since no one had read them, I had had no encouragement. I had written a dozen personal essays, short stories, a poem, and other things. I had written for the local newspaper for six months, a dubious honor to be sure, but this was the first time I felt that something I had written was truly being enjoyed. I thought up another story idea, and then all my sleepless nights in North Carolina were spent with Nick.

"Song without Words" was finished and posted in November 1998, right before we moved. It was nominated to the fanfic awards, too. It did not win the award, but I felt honored just being nominated. When I read some of the other stories that had made the list, I was doubly honored. Now I look at "Song" and I see lots of things I would change, rewrite, or even delete, but I guess that's a normal reaction.

I think "The Persecuted" was my next story, combining my former love, Star Trek, with my new addiction. I have written three stories in this series, and I am currently working on the fourth. Nick in the future is a little different from the Toronto police detective. He isn't quite as angsty, and he is alone. LaCroix, Nat, Vachon, all the rest, are in the alpha quadrant, while Nick, a Maquis rebel, tries to fit in with the crew of Voyager's mortals in the delta quadrant, 75,000 light years away.

Last October I had another story idea, "The Last Dance". I wanted to tell it from Tracy's perspective, but to show a relationship between Nick and Urs. I figured that it would happen shortly after Hearts of Darkness and of course, Last Knight never happens....

Here is an excerpt from that story:

"Where to," Nick asked, sliding behind the wheel of the caddy.
"The Raven, where else. I hear you're pretty tight with the owner. Think he'll give us a discount?"
"Where'd you hear that!"
Tracy wondered at the sudden sharp tone. Was he embarrassed? No, she didn't think so. Alarmed, more like it. Well, LaCroix was intimidating. "From LaCroix himself, Nick. He told me you were his son."
Nick stared at her so hard that he nearly hit someone.

"Keep your eyes on the road, Nick, will you?"
"When?"
"Every time you drive would be nice, but I suppose that's too much to hope for," she quipped, knowing full well that wasn't what he meant. Nick glanced at her again, worry puckering his brow.
"He told me that last night. I brought you to the Raven, and I was really worried about you. So was he. You don't have to be embarrassed about it, or worried, or what ever else is running through that very thick skull. I know what it's like to live with a difficult father. If you want to talk about it sometime, I'm here."
Nick just nodded. "Tracy?"
"Uh-huh?"
"Around LaCroix, "discount" is a four-letter word."

Later, in "The Last Dance", Tracy discovers Nick's true nature. Nick and Urs are dancing in the Raven. LaCroix has closed the club for this private party and Tracy is the only mortal present:

"Kalinka, kalinka, kalinka moya." Some of the vampires sang the Russian folksong as they drank more of their beverage, acting very much like intoxicated mortals. The chorus repeated, gaining speed, faster and faster. The dancers kept the pace, their hips moved provocatively. Tracy felt the deep pulsing of the bass, felt her own pulse increase with it. She saw Nick's eyes, blazing with passion, glowing in the yellow lights of the dim Raven. Then, as the song ended, Nick plunged his face into Urs's throat, and she bit into him. Clinging to one another-- they danced a different sort of dance, the passionate circle of a vampire mating. Tracy stared, speechless....

The Dance series has grown from there. I think I'm working on the tenth sequel already. It is about relationships. Although there is a crime in nearly every one, and flashback sequences, the plot is secondary. The Last Dance explores Nick's changing relationships with Urs, Tracy, and LaCroix. In Dance with the Devil, his relationship with Father Rochefort is renewed, and Vachon's relationship with LaCroix is altered. "Dance of the Undead" covers Tracy's relationships, now that she's a vampire.

This excerpt is from Dance with the Devil:

Vachon eyed LaCroix coolly. The ancient vampire was about to dismiss the young Spaniard, but his inane grin was most irritating. "Is there something on your mind for a change?" LaCroix demanded.Vachon grinned; the insult went right past him in his exhaustion. "I was just thinking. If my fledgling and your fledgling hang out, then that must make us like in-laws."
"Vachon. Don't think again. It isn't safe." Then LaCroix turned and fled to the quiet retreat of his apartment....

This is near the end of "Dance of the Undead":

Nick picked up the pace of the dance, swirling her around and around. He knew his own eyes were golden now, but it did not matter. This was what he had come here to do. LaCroix would demand it of him. Did it matter if he chose to enjoy it? This was not about being unfaithful to Janette, or to Urs, or even to Natalie. This was about being faithful to his own culture.
He and Tracy would exchange blood repeatedly in a short period of time, drinking nothing but each other, until he could sense her thoughts and feelings, and she could sense him. It was the dance of the vampire, the Dance of the Undead....

All of my stories, except "End of the Knight", can be found at Mel's Forever Knight fanfic page, http://www.fkfanfic.com. And all of them are at my website, http://www.angelfire.com/wi/CourageKnight.

Drop in and check it out, and sign my guestbook while you're there. I'd love to hear from you.

IDEA FOR OFFLINE FANS!
We know that sometimes it may seem like there's not much those of you who don't have computers at home can do to help to Kickstart the Knight. We wanted you to know that there is still plenty you can do to help bring back Forever Knight! Writing real letters to "The Powers That Be" is still the most important thing you can do. But it doesn't end there. It is now much easier for those who don't own computers to visit websites and even to send and receive e-mail. Many public libraries and universities have computers available for people to use at no cost. And almost everyone has a friend or a relative who owns a computer who would be happy to let you come over and use it for an hour or two every now and then. And you don't need to pay an online service just to get an e-mail account! There are now many reliable, free e-mail account services. Just create an e-mail account for yourself and you can send and receive mail whenever you can get your hands on a computer that has internet access. So go to your library, sign on the internet, get yourself an e-mail address, and have a great time checking out all the websites you read about in "The Crusader" and getting in on all the great discussions that happen on the Forever Knight mailing lists!

FROM OUR GOOD FRIENDS AT SAVE OUR SENTINEL...
"THE SENTINEL" gets Chain Reaction on Sci Fi Channel

Fans of The Sentinel are rejoicing as Sci Fi announces its first ever Chain Reaction for the series, taking place on May 29th. Sci Fi will air 10 episodes that day, from 9am - 6pm EST

In an ongoing effort to get The Sentinel back into a prime time spot in Sci Fi's lineup, the fans are asking everyone to tune into the Chain Reaction. We're hoping big enough ratings numbers that day will convince Sci Fi to return The Sentinel to its original prime time slot. Can you help us out?

You can find out everything you need to know about The Sentinel, its upcoming Chain Reaction and work we've done with the Forever Knight fans in the past by visiting:

The Sentinel Ad Group -- http://www.geocities.com/sentineladgroup
Support Our Sentinel -- http://www.geocities.com/sos2_us/sosindex.html

Thank you for your support!
Barbara Nice-Miller, Founder - Sentinel Ad Group
AgtSpooky@aol.com

FOREVER KNIGHT/tHE SENTINEL
CROSSOVER FANFIC
"HEARTLESS"
BY TONI

Sitting alone in the Caddy at the mouth of a dark alley, Nick Knight had to admit he missed Don Schanke. Missed him not only for his strange, and frequently hilarious, opinions, but even more for his habit of talking nonstop during stakeouts. Because this had to be the dullest stakeout on record, and Nick was sleepy as hell.

He yawned widely and leaned his forehead against the steering wheel. Even 800-year-old vampires need sleep, he grumbled silently.

Unfortunately, Myra and Schanke had taken their long-delayed vacation just at the time when a quarter of the city's cops were out with the flu. So Nick was stuck with back-to-back-to-back shifts.

He yawned again.

What made it truly annoying was that this assignment was so pointless. MacDonald had almost certainly skipped town two days ago. But the captain wanted his place watched just in case somebody showed up there. To relieve his boredom, the captain had said, Nick could use the time to meet with some of his colleagues from the States, who were in the city attending an international law enforcement conference.

A frown formed on Nick's pale face as he thought of one particular colleague from the States: James Ellison, detective from Cascade, Washington.

They'd met for the first time that morning, when Ellison and his captain had come with a group to tour the station. Almost immediately, Nick got the impression that Ellison didn't like him.

No, he thought, shaking his head sleepily, it wasn't exactly dislike, but *something* was going on. The American had kept staring at him oddly, as though he was puzzled or confused or something.

Nick glanced at his watch and sighed. So pointless. MacDonald and his cronies were long gone. He was certain the captain was just using this stakeout as an excuse to keep one grumpy, sleep-deprived detective out of her hair.

Nick leaned his head back against the seat. Ellison was due any second, so Nick would just rest his eyes. Just for a minute.
~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Blair Sandburg and Jim Ellison were walking along the poorly lit, deserted street on their way to meet with a Canadian detective.

Blair was a study in brown--thigh-length jacket, trousers, and knitted hat. His shoulder-length curly brown hair was pulled back in a pony tail that was tucked into a knitted scarf. Yet, in spite of all the wool, the young grad student was shivering and muttering about the cold.

By contrast, Jim wore jeans, a navy blue long-sleeved shirt, and a black leather jacket, which he'd left unzipped. The tall, dark-haired police detective rolled his eyes and shook his head, but said nothing.

"Admit it, man." Blair shivered again and pulled his scarf tighter around his face. "It is *always* cold during stakeouts."

"It's not that cold, Chief."

"Well, if I could regulate my sense of touch like you do, oh Great Sentinel of the City, maybe I wouldn't be freezing my ass off either. Why're we trekking through the freezing Canadian night instead of eating in a nice warm restaurant with Simon?"

"I believe our esteemed captain's exact words were, 'You're going to demonstrate international cooperation between the Canadian and U.S. police departments. You're going because it's a chance for you to learn something from a colleague in law enforcement. *And* you're going because I say so.'" The detective grunted. "Of

course, Simon's way of demonstrating international cooperation is to sit in a four-star French restaurant with the rest of the captains."

Blair snorted, then shivered again. "Man! That wind must be coming straight from the Arctic Circle."

Jim pulled his slower-moving friend across the street and out of the path of an oncoming car. "You're wearing at least five layers of clothing. How can you be cold?"

"I'm sensitive. Naomi always said so."

"Your mom lied to you, kid. Besides, I thought I was the sensitive one--you know, heightened senses, sensitive." Jim grinned at his joke.

"Okay, fine, you're sensitive. But I'm still freezing my ass off over here."

"You were the one who wanted to come--"

"Oh, so you'd rather I *not* be here! You're wishing I'd just stayed in Cascade and not wangled an invitation to speak at the university, right?"

Jim held up his hands in surrender. "Sandburg, when you're cold, you're impossible to talk to. Did you know that?"

Blair chuckled. "Yeah, yeah. I know. But I *hate* being cold!"

"Well, stop eyeing my jacket, buddy. I already gave you my gloves."

Blair opened his mouth to retort, but Jim's loud sigh stopped him. "You know, kid," Jim said thoughtfully. "Anybody else complained at me like you do, I'd just strangle 'em." Blair grinned, and Jim added, "Hey, I think I see our date up there."

"Detective Knight?"

The sentinel enhanced his eyesight, vision focusing in on the distant car. "Looks like it. He said to look for an old green Caddy. And...yeah, looks like Canada's own Super Cop is in it."

"I can't wait to meet this guy," Blair said, shaking his head. "I swear every time you mention his name, you put him down. How exactly did he get under your skin so fast?"

Jim didn't answer. He'd stopped walking, his attention fixed on the distant car. Now he tilted his head in the listening gesture Blair knew so well.

Very softly, so as not to damage sentinel hearing, Blair asked, "What? What is it?"

Without warning, Jim went from silent immobility to flying action. "No heartbeat, no breathing, Chief! Something's wrong with Knight!"

"What?!" Blair exclaimed and raced after his partner.

Jim took time to reconnoiter their surroundings as he ran, looking up at the surrounding buildings to make sure there were no overt threats. Blair raced by him and reached the car first.

He wrenched the door open. As he laid hands on the detective to pull him out of the car, he got a severe shock.

Knight's eyes flew opened, his mouth opened, and he *launched* himself at Blair. With a startled shout, the grad student found himself propelled through the air several feet to land heavily on the pavement.
~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

It was certainly one hell of a wake-up call.

Getting the first decent rest he'd had in more than two days, Nick suddenly found himself under attack. At least, he'd thought it was an attack.

Looking down at the young man he was straddling, the vampire found himself reconsidering. The young man's face was as pale as his own, his blue eyes wide with astonishment. He was holding his hands up, palms out, in a definite gesture of surrender. "Wait! I'm one of the good guys!" he yelled.

"Get the hell off him!" bellowed an angry voice, and Nick snapped his head around.

Running toward him was the American detective, Jim Ellison.

"Get off, you jackass!" Ellison yelled. "That's my partner Blair Sandburg!"

As soon as his brain had identified Ellison, Nick forced his bared lips down and rolled quickly off his victim. He remembered Ellison telling him that they would be joined tonight by Sandburg, an anthropology grad student riding along with Ellison.

The shift from attacking vampire to apologetic detective occurred even as Nick came to his feet in one smooth motion. He was extremely grateful for the dim lighting; he didn't think the men had noticed anything amiss.

Sandburg still lay on his back, breathing rapidly. "Okay," he muttered, "Right. Well. At least I'm not cold any more."

Nick couldn't keep the smile from his face. Holding out a hand, he said, with ironic politeness, "How do you do, Mr. Sandburg. I'm Detective Nick Knight."

"Sandburg, are you okay?" Ellison demanded as he arrived.

"Yeah, I think so." The young man hesitated only an instant, then took Nick's offered hand. The vampire pulled him effortlessly to his feet.

"I apologize, Mr. Sandburg," he said. "You startled me."

Straightening his clothes, the young man replied, "Please call me Blair. Hey, if I'd known you were sleeping--" He shot a glance at his partner. "--I woulda been more careful. You wake up like Jim--ready to repel an army."

Nick chuckled. He was intrigued by the byplay between these two very different-seeming men. Though his face remained impassive, Ellison's body language was eloquent; he was obviously still concerned about his partner. Blair's reply was just as obvious, and just as wordless. The kid (he looked to be in his late twenties), by his facial expressions and gestures, was plainly reassuring Ellison that he was fine.

There was something else though, another dynamic Nick didn't understand. The kid seemed to be asking his own silent question. He glanced at Nick, then looked at Ellison, eyebrows rising. Ellison frowned, shrugged, and shook his head.

Pretending not to have noticed, Nick said, "We're shorthanded because of the flu, so I've been working double--actually triple--shifts. I really am sorry about...about all that."

"Hey, no problem. But do you think we blew our cover?" Blair asked, looking up at the buildings nearby.

Nick smiled and noticed that Ellison was rolling his eyes. The two men exchanged an amused glance and, for the first time since they'd met, Nick felt that they'd connected somehow, that the inexplicable awkwardness was somehow dissipated.

The vampire shook his head in reply to Blair's question. "No. I think our cover's safe enough. This is pretty much an exercise in futility anyway; MacDonald is long gone." He glanced at his watch. "I should check in though. You're sure you're okay?"

"Yeah, man, I'm fine. We anthropologists are a lot tougher than we look."

"But not smarter," Jim muttered.

Nick went back to his car chuckling.
~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

As soon as the Canadian had moved away from them, Blair's smile vanished and he whacked Jim on the shoulder."What the hell was that about, man?" he hissed. "You said he was *dead*!"

Jim glared at him. "No heartbeat, no breathing. What else--"

"Well, he sure doesn't look dead to me!"

"Thank you, Dr. Einstein. Is that your medical opinion?"

Their furious glares held for another second, then Blair sighed. "No, man. That's the opinion of the guy who just had his skull bounced against the pavement by a definitely not-dead guy."

Jim's anger evaporated. "I'm sorry, Chief. I don't know what to tell you," he said helplessly. "I just...know what I heard. Or didn't hear." He pinched the bridge of his nose and closed his eyes briefly. "It's crazy."

"Okay, Jim. Hey, it's okay," Blair told him, tapping the sentinel's chest with the back of one gloved hand. "We'll figure it out. How about now though? What do you hear now?"

Jim canted his head slightly, listening. After a second, he frowned, face reflecting confusion. "This is nuts," he grumbled. "I still don't hear any heartbeat. I can hear him talking to his dispatcher, but past that--going past that--I don't hear a thing."

The sentinel's gaze shifted to Blair's chest. The grad student resisted an illogical urge to hold his breath. He couldn't hold back a smile though, as he was reminded again just how *unique* his friend was. How unique their partnership was.

Jim was nodding. "Yeah, yeah, I hear yours just fine, even through the ten layers of wool you're wearing." The sentinel's eyes went to the Caddy again. After a brief pause, he made a disgusted sound. "Nothing. I still get nothing from him."

In contrast to Jim's growing upset, Blair was nodding now. "Well, at least we know why you disliked this guy on sight," he said. Jim looked a question at him, and Blair explained, "When you met him, you couldn't hear his heartbeat--that's why you sensed something 'off' or 'wrong' about him."

"Sandburg, I'm not some human stethoscope, you know. I'd lose my mind if I kept my hearing up at that level all--"

"I know. I know. Obviously it's not a conscious thing, but you must've been aware of it, at least on a subliminal level. You must've been. And *that's* why he struck you as wrong. Something blocked you from picking up those usual sounds from him."

Jim didn't look completely convinced, but finally decided it was better to think there was a physical, eventually knowable, reason behind his illogical dislike of somebody he'd only just met. Somebody who, by all accounts, was a hell of a good cop and a decent guy.

"Either that," Blair added with a grin, "or he just doesn't have a heart."

Nick had left his car and was coming toward them again.

Blair said quickly, "Don't worry. I'll come up with some experiments to figure this thing out."

Jim grimaced. "Great," the sentinel muttered, "now who's the heartless one?"

To be continued.....

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
Following are some FK-related items for sale. Please note that The Crusader staff is not responsible in any way for business transactions which take place pursuant to these ads. To the best of our knowledge, however, these are reliable dealers of fan-made merchandise.

Forever Knight Novel: Jean Graham's novel "Forever Knight: On Holy Ground", which had been under consideration by Berkley-Boulevard Books -- until the friendly folks at Sony pulled the plug. It will be privately published in May 2000 in a limited paperback edition, with proceeds benefitting The Humane Society of the United States, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Help the Children. Advance reservations for On Holy Ground can be made now by sending check or money order to: Jean

Graham, PO Box 23383, San Diego, CA 92193-3383. Prices: From inside the USA: $8 + $2 shipping & handling. CANADA: $8 + $3 S&H (US funds only, please). OVERSEAS: $8 + $6 Airmail shipping (US funds only, please). All advance orders are guaranteed refundable should publication fail to occur. Visit http://members.aol.com/fk81kilo/hgcover.htm or email JeanB7@aol.com.

Forever Knight Audio Fanfic: Dragon's Lair Studios produces audio cassette FK fanfic available for sale with profits going to charity. One drama title and four comedy titles available. Please note these tapes are for an adult audience. Titles are $10 plus shipping ($1 cont. U.S./$3 outside the cont. U.S.) to Dragon's Lair Studios, P.O. Box 594, Stratford, NJ 08084, or visit http://www.Dragonsroar.com.

GWD Videos: Is there a GWD video missing from your collection? Maybe I can help you! Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for details to: Valerie J. Bristor, 2334 Cypress Bend Dr., #912, Pompano Beach, FL 33069.

Fanzines: Del Floria's Press & Samizdat Press has fanzines available in the following fandoms: UNCLE, X-Files, The Equalizer, Forever Knight, Quantum Leap, Star Trek, Mixed Media, gen and slash zines. Currently seeking submissions for several upcoming issues. SASE or email for details. For more information, to order a zine, or for a catalog, please send a long, legal size SASE (international fans please send 2 IRC's) to Sasha Sokolnikov, Del Floria's Press, 7319 Granite Crk., San Antonio, TX 78238 or visit http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Quadrant/2155/index.html.

Embroidered FK Shirts and Hats: Embroidered FK T-shirts, denim shirts, and baseball caps. The hats and shirts are embroidered in thread color of your choice. T-shirts are black, white, red, forest green or navy. A long-sleeve denim shirt with small logo above pocket is also available. Shirt sizes S to 3XL. Baseball caps available in most colors, and can include optional embroidery on the back with words of your choice. Thread available in most colors, or in two-tone ("Forever" in white and "Knight" in red). Hat prices are $18.50 for one hat with no rear writing and regular freight, $20.00 for one hat with no rear writing and 7 day freight, $21.00 for one hat with rear writing and regular freight, and $23.00 for one hat with rear writing and 7 day freight. T-shirt prices are $18.00 each or two for $33.00 for small logo, and $24.00 each or $45.00 for two for large logo. Denim shirts are $26.00 each.. Prices listed are in U.S. dollars and include all shipping and handling charges. For more information, contact Kylie Coleman-Tucker, P.O. Box 34-879, Birkenhead, Auckland, NEW ZEALAND, or visit http://home.clear.net.nz/pages/knightraven.

FK/Highlander Fanzine: New from Maverick Press, "Immortal Fantasies", a "Forever Knight"/"Highlander" slash fanzine. This zine contains two related novellas ("Chance Encounters" and "The Ties That Bind") which combine to make a novel. Prices are $18.20 if you are in the U.S., $20.00 in Canada, or $24.00 overseas. U.S. funds

please. Send checks or inquiries to: Jo Ann McCoy, 2580 I-25 North, Pueblo, CO 81008-9614 or e-mail: tasha@ris.net. Please note this is for an adult audience.

OUR READERS WRITE....
How many issues [of "The Crusader"] are there?
Margaut H., Philadelphia, PA
Ed.: To date, there have been ten issues of "The Crusader" including this issue. The first issue was dated January 1998.

I'm interested in the Kickstart the Knight campaign.... I'm not online yet but plan to be soon. If you have any of the old newsletters "lying around" you could even send me some of them.
Teri D., Alexandria, OH
Ed.: Thank you for your interest! Back issues of "The Crusader" are on their way to you. Anyone who would like back issues of the printed version of "The Crusader" should send a $0.33 stamp for one issue and a $0.22 stamp for each additional issue desired (to be sent in the same envelope), along with a note stating your address and which issues you would like and we will get them to you right away. Our mailing address is KtK, P.O. Box 1914, Racine, WI 53401-1914.

I've been looking for copies of the following magazine articles (which I've heard have FK stories in them): Cult Times #43, Cult Times Special #9, Sci Fi Explorer #7.... I would be glad to pay for copying costs and postage.
Karen B., Whitehall, PA
Ed.: I checked my magazines and I don't have these either. If any of our readers have them and would like to help Karen out, please either e-mail Becky Jones at BJDFKFan@aol.com or write to KtK, P.O. Box 1914, Racine, WI 53401-1914 and we'll try to get something worked out. In addition, Cult Times offers #43 for sale at $12.00 (including $2.00 shipping). Write: Visual Imagination, PMB# 469, P.O. Box 6061, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413 or FAX to (818)980-6061 or visit http://www.visimag.com/culttimes. Unfortunately their website indicates that Special #9 is sold out. Star Tech Enterprises is another good source for back issues of magazines and other sci fi items. Their address is P.O. Box 456, Dunlap, TN 37327 or visit http://www.startechenterprises.com.

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If you wish to receive future issues of The Crusader, please send a $0.33 stamp for each issue desired to:

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Subscribers living outside the U.S. (including Canada) must send appropriate international postage for each issue they wish to receive (must cover 1.5 ounces of postage).

Many thanks from the gang at Kickstart the Knight!

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